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Ex-Student Tells of C.I.A. Intrigue

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A Government lawyer told today of a week of intrigue with the Central Intelligence Agency when he was an officer of the National Student Association in 1950.

Frederic Delano Houghteling, a cousin of the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt and a lawyer for the Civil Aeronautics Board, broke a 17-year silence to relate how he, as secretary of the student association, had arranged for a grant of several thousand dollars from the intelligence agency to send 12 American students to a student meeting in Europe.

Mr. Houghteling said the incident had involved a good bit of melodrama, including a mid-die-of-the-night meeting on a country road and an elaborate charade to make it appear that the money was actually coming from "a couple of public benefactors."

He said he gathered that it was all right to tell of the incident now since the intelligence agency's connection with the student association has become public knowledge. He said he had been sworn to secrecy.

Mr. Houghteling's account suggests that the association's involvement with the intelligence agency goes back further than the Government has yet admitted. State Department of-

officials said Tuesday, in confirming the intelligence agency's involvement with the organization, that the connection began in 1952.

Another person told here today of still another connection between the two organizations as far back as 1949.

Mr. Houghteling said the association's headquarters in 1950 was at Madison, Wis. There was an international student meeting that summer in Europe—he could not remember the location—and the association wanted to send delegates to it.

He said the officers publicized their plan and selected 12 students from applicants around the country.

"Then the problem was how to pay for the trip," he said.

He said the association asked several foundations for financial help. After a while, he said, he was approached by a friend from his days at Harvard College who had gone to work for the Central Intelligence Agency.

"The C.I.A. did not have any lurid reputation in those days," Mr. Houghteling said, remarking on the fact that he saw nothing wrong at that time with dealing with the agency.

He said he had a conversation with his friend in which the intelligence agency man satisfied himself that the 12 students were a representative group and that the trip was worthwhile.

Shortly afterward, he said, his friend called again. He went with his friend and two other employees of the agency to a country road outside Madison, late at night, he said.

There the men told him that the Government was "interested" in the student trip and was prepared to help. Then he was sworn to secrecy.

He said the three men told him the Government would put up the money for the trip but would make it appear that two wealthy citizens were paying for it.

He said he later learned the names of the "benefactors" and traveled to Chicago to "ask them for the money." He was accompanied by another student association member who knew nothing of the plot, he said.

One of the benefactors, whom he did not identify, turned out to be a friend of his father, he said. "A coincidence, I guess," he observed.

He said he had acted out his role in the charade and so had the two men. One, especially, "Really threw himself into his role," asking penetrating questions and making it appear that he might not come through with the money, he said.

The money came "some weeks thereafter," he recalled. He said he could not remember the amount but that it was \$6,000, \$10,000 or \$12,000.